AC 439(3) SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1945

ALEXANDER URQUHART, M.A., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE - 1945

Chairman - Councillor Mrs. G. Hayes Jones

Vice-Chairman - Councillor J.P.J.Spight

Councillors:

A.A.Bellm, J.W.Adams, P. Bryant (ex-officio), C.E.Davies, Rev. G.W.Elcock, J.H.Kaye, W. Read and J.H.Tickner.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - 1945

(a) Medical Officer of Health (part time)

ALEXANDER URQUHART, M.A., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(b) Sanitary Inspector (whole time)

THOMAS J. MOORE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(c) Additional Sanitary Inspector (whole time)

ALBERT E. POOLEY, M.S.I.A. (at present in H.M.Forces)

(d) Clerk: Mrs. O.W.LUKYN.

Area in acres 5,689

Population. The population, estimated by the Registrar-General for 1945 is 19,760.

This figure shows a slight increase on the figure for 1944 - 19740.

The restrictions imposed at the outbreak of War, now having been lifted, it is interesting to note the following:

Census 1921 Population 9,904
(Prior to the Amalgamation of Shepperton and Ashford Common)

Census 1931 Population 13,451
(Just after the Amalgamation)

Population 1945 19,760

Sunbury-on-Thames is the third smallest Urban District in the County of Middlesex, Potters Bar being the smallest with a population of 14,190, and West Drayton next with 16,520. (These figures are given for 1944)

Rateable Value ... ... £205,109.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ... £810.

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Chief causes of Death in 1945

The chief causes of death (all ages) in 1945, were as follows:

Heart Disease	36	Males 21, females 15
Cancer	30	" 20, " 10

Of the deaths registered in the District in 1945

40 were of persons between 60 and 70 years of age (24 men, 16 women)

46 were of persons between 70 and 80 years of age (19 men and 27 women)

45 were of persons between 80 and 90 years of age (18 men and 27 women)

and there were 7 persons over 90 (1 man 94, and women 92, 93, 90, 95, 92 & 90)

Ambulance Facilities

1. For Infectious Cases Patients are removed in the ambulance provided by the Isolation Hospital from their homes to the Hospital.

2. For Non-infectious and Accident Cases Since 16th May, 1945, the Ambulance Service has been stationed at the Council Offices, and a day and night service maintained.

During the War, this service was operated by Civil Defence personnel at the C.D.Headquarters, Sunbury Court.

The ambulance, during 1945, was called out as follows:

Accidents 76. Illness 196. Maternity 25.

Total = 397 calls.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births

Legitimate	329	170 males	159 females
Illegitimate	26	10 "	16 "
	355 (422)	180 (204)	175 (218)

(Figures in brackets are for the previous year)

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

17.9 (20.9)

England & Wales 16.1 (17.6)

Stillbirths 9. Males 5, females 4.

Rate per 1,000 (Live and stillbirth) 24.7.

Deaths 189. (203) Males 100 (106) Females 89 (97)

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

9.5 (10.5)

England & Wales 11.4 (11.6)

Deaths from Puerperal causes = 1

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age

Deaths under 1 year	16
All infants per 1000 live births	45
Legitimate infants " " " "	36.6
Illegitimate do " " " "	8.4

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years) Nil

Laboratory Facilities

Water, milk, foodstuffs, sputa, swabs, etc., requiring Laboratory examination, are sent to the Clinical Research Association, London.

During the year 1945, the following specimens were dealt with: -

Swabs for Diphtheria	15.	Positive Nil	Negative 15.
Sputa for Tuberculosis	8.	" 3	" 5.

Midwives - 1945

During the year 5 Midwives practised within the area, as follows:

Midwives employed in Sunbury by the Middlesex County Council -

Feron, Edith Maud — 59 Green Street, Sunbury

James, Elsie G.F. — Mansard, Charlton Road, Shepperton

Midwife employed in Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District by the Shepperton & Littleton District Nursing Association under arrangements made with the Middlesex County Council in accordance with the Midwives Act 1936. -

Greeno, Jane L — Sherborne, Crescent Road, Shepperton.

Midwife resident in Sunbury

Jones, Edith R — 73 Manor Lane, Sunbury

Midwife resident in Shepperton

Martin, Elsie J — Oxford Villa, Laleham Road, Shepperton

Nursing Homes

Proprietor	Address	No. of beds	Maternity beds
Mrs. M. Blamey & Mrs. D.M. Jones	West Lodge & Weir House, Sunbury	47	-
Miss E.R. Jones	73 Manor Lane, Sunbury	1	1

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Diphtheria — There were four cases reported, all Non-Civilians. No deaths.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Public Health Department for use by local Medical Practitioners.

Scarlet Fever — There were 24 cases, five nursed at home and the rest sent to Hospital.

Pneumonia — Only one case was notified and sent to Hospital.

Chickenpox — 64 cases notified, mostly through Headmasters of Council schools.

Whooping Cough — 43 cases.

Measles — 432 cases reported. An outbreak of measles started in December 1944 and lasted about three months. The children were all between 5 and 10 years of age, and attending schools.

B. Dysentery — 7 cases notified, six Non-Civilians (German Prisoners-of-War).

Cancer — This is not notifiable. During 1945, there were 30 deaths from cancer in its various forms. Ages varied from 43 to 83.

Small pox — During the year, several contacts of smallpox were notified in the District. Most of these had travelled back to England from the continent, and were probably due to the movement into this country of increasingly large numbers of persons from places abroad where smallpox is prevalent. In all instances these contacts were visited and kept under surveillance for the proper period.

Scabies — Treatment for scabies is given at the Spellthorne School Clinic (by arrangement with the Middlesex County Council) and there are two sessions a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

During the year 1945, 359 persons were treated, as against 432 the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS 1945

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths all cases			
	Pul		Non-Pul		Pul		Non-Pul	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year								
1 - 4	1		2					
5 - 10		1	2	1				
11 - 15	2	2						
16 - 20	4	2			1	1		
21 - 25	4	4			1			
26 - 35	4	5			3			
36 - 45	2	5						
46 - 55	2				1			
56 - 65								
65 & upwards								

The incidence of Tuberculosis is very much higher during the War, and the numbers on the Register have risen from 33 Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases in 1939 to 69 in 1945. Non-Pulmonary cases have risen from 8 in 1939 to 16 in 1945.

GENERAL REPORT FOR 1945

The Annual Report for 1945 is much fuller in detail than was permitted by the Ministry of Health during the War years. It was important then not to divulge information regarding population, movements of people, vital statistics, and housing, etc. which might be useful to the enemy.

It will be noted that the population of the District is now 19,760. This shows a steady increase from year to year, although during the peak years of the War, it was even greater owing to influx of factory and munition workers. Now the distribution of people is more normal.

The vital statistics of Births and Deaths are satisfactory. There has been a steady increase in the Birth Rate and it compares favourably with the figure for the country as a whole. The Death Rate, too, is below the average. In spite of War conditions, and the deprivation of many things formerly considered essential, the health of the District has been remarkably good, and we have been fortunate in not having had any large epidemic of Influenza or any other dangerous infectious disease.

We are becoming a nation of older people, due mainly to the casualties of two World Wars, and the mortality tables naturally show a higher proportion of deaths in the advanced age periods. This longevity is partly due to a determined mental grit and endurance, of which the old people set a good example, in spite of the lack of many of the comforts, such as milk, etc., which are essential for old-age.

The younger generation are showing up well, due to the Maternity & Child Welfare Clinics, and the abundant and satisfactory school meals. It is unusual now to find sickly or undernourished children in the schools or streets. All this fitness is in spite of overcrowded and great shortage of houses, which is universal, and which all Local Authorities are steadily trying to cope with.

As regards Infectious Diseases, 1945 was a good year. There were minor epidemics of children's diseases, such as measles, whooping cough, chickenpox and mumps, but all were more or less of a mild type, with few complications.

Immunisation against Diphtheria throughout the District has practically wiped out the most dangerous disease of children. In former years we had many of this cases and a number of deaths. About 75 - 80% of all children are now immunised.

No cases of smallpox developed in the District, although there were many contacts from returning service and other people who had contracted it abroad.

Several cases of dysentery occurred among German Prisoners of War who were encamped at Kempton Park. These were properly and efficiently dealt with by their own Medical Officers and Staff, and no infection spread to any of our civilian population. The Camp was visited and kept under constant observation.

No cases of Typhoid Fever, which might have been expected, occurred.

The chief and most urgent necessity for the District, as in all others, is more, and better, housing for the population, and this the Council is doing its best to supply.

I wish, in conclusion, to express my thanks to the Staff in the Public Health Department, and especially to record my appreciation of the very efficient manner in which Mrs. Lukyn keeps careful records of all matters dealt with in this Department, and for her invaluable assistance in preparing this report. I also wish to thank the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Moore, and all officials in other departments for their help and assistance, and the Chairman and Members of the Council.

ALEX. URQUHART.

Medical Officer of Health.

September 1946.
Council Offices,
Sunbury-on-Thames.